

3. The supremacy of Christ

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The false teachers in Colosse, like the false teachers of our own day, would not deny the importance of Jesus Christ. They would simply dethrone Him by giving Him prominence but not preeminence. In their doctrines, Jesus Christ was one of many "emanations" that proceeded from God and through which men could reach God. It was this claim that Paul refuted in this section of the letter to the Colossians.

Probably no paragraph in the New Testament contains more concentrated doctrine about Jesus Christ than this one.

A. THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

Colossians 1:15a He is the image of the invisible God,
The Greek word for 'image' is 'eikon'. Apostle Paul used the word image to make this fact clear. It means "an exact representation." The writer to the Hebrews affirms that Jesus Christ is "the express image of His Person" from Hebrews 1:3. Jesus was able to say, "He that has seen Me, has seen the Father" in John 14:9. It is only in Jesus Christ that the invisible God is revealed perfectly. Since no mere creature can perfectly reveal God, Jesus Christ must be God.

B. THE FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION

Colossians 1:15b the firstborn over all creation.
This is where Jehovah's Witness people get so happy to explain to the people who do not know the truth of Jesus with their fabricated doctrines. Obviously they didn't understand the definition of the Greek word 'prototokos'. It does not refer to time, but to place or status. Firstborn of all Creation means "Headship of all Creation." His headship of all creation does not mean that He was born first.

Solomon was certainly not born first of all of David's sons, yet he was named the firstborn. Jesus Christ is not a created being. He is eternal God.

C. BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED

Colossians 1:16a For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.

Now we come to the portion of the Scripture that are used by a cult group to justify their doctrines even though they are the ones who completely misunderstood and twisted. They know that if they accept this portion of the Word of God, they must come to realization that they are in cult.

Jehovah's Witness' bible, the New World Translation states, "by him all other things were created." They inserted the word "other" in v15-17 to claim that Jesus is not the Jehovah God, but a son of God. Actually, Jehovah's Witness is nothing more than a reincarnation of gnosticism from the first century.

Ever since the evolution theory came into picture, there have been constant arguments between the believers of Creation Fact and the evolution theory losers. More people would rather believe evolution because they think that they don't have to be accountable to Almighty God who created everything in heaven and earth. But they remain to be wrong. Even though they claim themselves as scientific people, yet they are extremely illogical and fanatic in their new-created religion, the evolution theory.

Because it takes more faith to believe what they claim than simply believing that our God created everything.

The word 'for' that introduces this verse could be translated "because." Jesus Christ is the Firstborn of all because He created all things. It is no wonder that the winds and waves obeyed Him, and diseases and death fled from Him, because He is Master over all.

Jesus created all things including angels – some became fallen angels by their own choice.

On a side note, for these fallen angels, demons, have you ever wondered why they don't get to have salvation like humans since they chose to walk away from God's goodness? What is the difference between human and angel? We humans have spirit just like angels, but we have human bodies that requires redemption through Jesus Christ, but angels don't have that case. That is why fallen angels cannot have salvation as we do.

All things are under Jesus' command. Nothing escapes from our Lord Jesus' acknowledgement. Without His permission, nothing will happen including what the devil wants to do.

D. ALL THINGS WERE CREATED FOR HIM

Colossians 1:16b All things were created through Him and for Him.

Everything exists in Him, for Him, and through Him. Jesus is the object of all creations. We are created for His pleasure.

We all once were unbelievers in the past. Until we came to know Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we knew that something was missing in our lives. We couldn't be satisfied unless we come to know Him. Augustine said, "We are restless until we come to rest in God."

Apostle Paul's use of three different prepositions is one way of refuting the philosophy of the false teachers. For centuries, the Greek philosophers had taught that everything needed a primary cause, an instrumental cause, and a final cause. The primary cause is the plan, the instrumental cause the power, and the final cause the purpose. When it comes to Creation, Jesus Christ is the primary cause, because He planned it. He is the instrumental cause, because He produced it. He is the final cause, because He did it for His own pleasure.

E. IN HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST - BE HELD TOGETHER (NIV)

Colossians 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

A guide took a group of people through an atomic laboratory and explained how all matter was composed of rapidly moving electric particles. The tourists studied models of molecules and were amazed to learn that matter is made up primarily of space. During the question period, one visitor asked, "If this is the way matter works, what holds it all together?" For that, the guide had no answer. Because the scientists don't know how these atoms are staying together, they call this holding agent as "Atomic Glue" of which ingredients they have no idea.

However, the mankind have figured out how to split these atoms. When they were able to split these atoms, they have learned that there are tremendous amount of energy get released instantly that would blow up everything around for many miles and destroy everything in its path.

But we know who is holding every atom in its place. Again, this is another affirmation that Jesus Christ is God. Only God exists before all of Creation, and only God can make Creation held together. To make Jesus Christ less than God is to dethrone Him.

F. HE IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.

V18 is the main theme of the letter to the Colossians.

No denomination or local assembly can claim that they are the only "body of Christ." Because the body of Christ is composed of all true believers. Each Christian is a member of this spiritual body, and Jesus Christ is the Head. In Greek usage, the word 'head' meant "source" and "origin" as well as "leader, ruler." Jesus Christ is the Source of the church, His body and He is the Leader. Paul called Him "the Beginning" which tells us that Jesus Christ has priority in time as far as His church is concerned. The term beginning can be translated "originator."

G. IN HIM ALL THE FULLNESS SHOULD DWELL

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

Again we come to the very verse that shows the identity of Jesus as God the Son, not just a son of God like the Jehovah's Witness would love to proclaim.

The 'fullness' is the 'pleroma' in Greek. That is one of the most important words in this epistle. That is, it emphasized that Christ emptied Himself and became a servant. He emptied Himself of the glory that He had with the Father. He didn't empty Himself of His deity – He was God when He came to this earth. The 'pleroma', the full fullness of God, dwells in Him.

Philippians 2:5-11 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Jehovah's Witness would like to argue with you with Philippians 2:5-6 as their base for no equality between Jesus and God the Father. But they are not taking everything in contexts. They forget that Jesus would be called 'Immanuel' and the qualification as the Atoning Sacrifice.

H. RECONCILE ALL THINGS TO HIMSELF

Colossians 1:20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

If there is to be reconciliation between man and God, the initiative and action must come from God. Because we couldn't come to Holy God with our sinful nature. At the same time, Holy God couldn't lower His standard for us either. It is in Christ that God was reconciled to man. But it was not the birth of Christ that accomplished this reconciliation, nor was it His example as He lived among men. It was through His death that peace was made between God and man. He "made peace through the blood of His cross"

Colossians 1:21-23 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-- 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

God's answer to the problem of alienation is reconciliation, initiated by His work on the cross. In the work of reconciliation, God didn't meet us halfway. God meets us all the way and invites us to accept it.

The idea of presenting us holy and blameless before God may recall the terminology used when priests inspected potential sacrifices. We are presented to God as a living sacrifice.

I. THE THINGS TO REMEMBER

1) Jesus Christ has taken care of all things.

All things were created by Him and for Him. He existed before all things, and today He holds all things together. He has reconciled all things through His own crucifixion. No wonder Paul declared that "in all things He might have the preeminence".

2) All that we need is Jesus Christ.

We have all of God's fullness in Him, and we are "filled full" in Him. There is no need to add anything to the person or work of Jesus Christ. To add anything is to take away from His glory. To give Him prominence instead of preeminence is to dethrone Him.

3) God is pleased when His Son, Jesus Christ, is honored and given preeminence.

J. APPLICATION

1) Jesus must be the first priority and preeminence in our lives.

No human's desire can be placed in the spot of Jesus in our hearts.